



*Water has no substitute...
Conserve it!*

Media Contact: Kim Tamaoka

Public Relations Specialist

Office: (808) 245-5455

Mobile: (808) 755-5432

Email: ktamaoka@kauaiwater.org

News Release

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DOW's water education festival makes a splash

LIHUE – Over 750 students attended the Department of Water's (DOW) 13th Annual "Make a Splash" Festival on Thursday, Sept. 22, at the Pua Loke Arboretum.

"Educating our youth about water and the many important aspects of conservation is our main focus for this annual festival," said Kirk Saiki, DOW's manager and chief engineer. "It's very rewarding to see students excited to learn about such a vital subject, and through impactful interactions with our staff and community partners."

This year 11 organizations, local businesses, county and state agencies taught the lessons and activities. Among these community partners included the Kauai Fire Department; Grove Farm Company Inc.; NOAA's Marine Wildlife Program; Department of Health—Safe Drinking Water Branch; East and West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Kukuiula Development Company; The Specific Chiropractic Center; Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)—Division of Aquatic Resources; DLNR—Division of Forestry and Wildlife; Kauai Invasive Species Committee; and Aqua Engineers Inc.

In addition to the community partners mentioned above, the DOW would also like to thank the following supporters who contributed their time, assistance and resources for this year's Make a Splash festival: Department of Education; UH—College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Kauai Agricultural Research Center; Kauai County Farm Bureau; Mayor Bernard Carvalho Jr.; Hawaii Rural Water Association; Kapaa High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC); Kapaa High School National Honor Society (NHS); Kauai Board of Water Supply; and DOW staff, families and retirees.

The Make a Splash festival for Kauai's fifth grade students serves to educate students about water through dynamic hands-on activities, games and educational exhibits. Students learn how this critical natural resource affects water-dependent activities like agriculture, recreation, the local industry and wildlife habitats. Students leave the event with a better perspective on how they can contribute to water's wise use and protection.

Kauai is currently the only island that organizes this festival. This year, the DOW funded the school buses that brought the students to participate in the festival.

For more information about the Make a Splash festival, call 245-5455.

Photos by the Kauai Department of Water



Students demonstrated how many water users must work together to manage and use a single water source, through the “8-4-1, One for All” activity.



In the “Sum of the Parts” activity, students learned how pollution from a property can ultimately end up in our rivers and ocean, and can compromise our water quality.



Staff from NOAA’s Marine Wildlife Program shared with students through various hands-on activities about how to protect our marine animals.



In “The Long Haul” activity, students competed in a water-hauling relay, to better appreciate today’s readily available water supplies. Students learned how easy access to water can cause people to use more than what’s necessary.

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